Taking into account the rate of interest charged by RBI on the General Line of Credit to NABARD and other relevant factors, the refinance rate has been reduced by 0.50% bringing the highest dependence level slab of refinance to State Co-operative Banks/District Central Co-operative Banks on SAO to 7.5% perannum.

Adulteration of opium

4322. SHRI C.RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are adulterating the opium they have to give to the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details of fraud detected during last one year; and

(c) the action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Some cases of adulteration of opium by the opium poppy cultivators have come to notice.

(b) The tests conducted have detected the presence of adulterants like gum, starch, HIM (High Inorganic Matter), Horlicks, milk powder, bournvita, sugar in the opium tenderd by licensed cultivators.

(c) Depending on the extent of adulteration, fine has been imposed on the cultivators whose opium has been found to be adulterated. The quantity of opium tendered by the licensed cultivators is reduced to the extent of fine imposed. The quantity so reduced is taken into account for computation of average yield for the purposes of renewal of the licence of the cultivators for the next crop year. Cultivators whose average yield fell below the Minimum Qualifying Yield have been delicensed.

Post of DG in NCB

4323. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the service from which the post of Director-General of the Narcotics Control Bureau was filled up this year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the officers of the Indian Customs and Central

Excise Service are no longer being considered for this post and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the services from which the post of Director-General of NCB, was held from 1985 onwards; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Prime Minister's Office had while approving the name of the present incumbent mentioned that the next Director-General of NCB, would be from the Central Excise and Customs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Sir, the post of Director General of the Narcotics Control Bureau was filled up in November, 2001 from the Indian Police Service.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Sir, the services from which the post of Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau was held are indicated below:

Sl. No.	Service	From	To
1.	Indian Revenue Service	08.05.19860	9.11.1988
2.	Indian Revenue Service	10.11.1988	15.07.1990
3.	Indian Police Service (addl. Charge to Deputy Director General)	16.07.1990	29.01.1991
4.	Indian Police Service	30.01.1991	31.12.1992
5.	Indian Police Service (addl. charge to Deputy Director General)	01.01.1993	16.09.1993
6.	Indian Police Service	17.09.1993	31.01.1995
7.	Indian Police Service	01.02.1995	05.01.2001
8.	Indian Customs & Central Excise Service (addl. charge)	26.02.2001	12.03.2001
9.	Indian Police Service	12.03.2001	30.11.2001
10.	Indian Police Service	30.11.2001	Till date

(d) No, Sir.